

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00705 221623Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8439
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCINCEUR
USCINCUSAFE
USCINCUSNAVEUR
DOD WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, EG, UK, US

SUBJECT: CONTINUED PRESS REACTION TO NIMBUS STAR

REF: NICOSIA 668 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST PRESS HAMMER ON THEME THAT
U.S. MARINES ARE LANDING WITH EQUIPMENT, WILL STAY PERMANENTLY,
AND THAT USG TAKING OVER DHEKELIA BASE. COMMUNIST PRESS,
PRESUMABLY REFLECTING MOSCOW GUIDANCE, IS CRITICAL OF "PRESENT
GOEGYPT" FOR ALLOWING AMERWCANS IN. END SUMMARY

1. LEFTIST AND RIGHTIST PRESS HAMMERING AT THEME U.S.
"OCCUPATION" OF DHEKELIA, CRITICAL OF "ANOTHER FOREIGN
MILITARY PRESENCE", CALLING UPON MAKARIOS TO WITHDRAW
PERMISSION FOR U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE. PIO STATED CYPRUS
GOVT HAS "NO RPT NO INFO" RE CONVERSION DHEKELIA SBA INTO
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 00705 221623Z

ANGLO-AMERICAN BASE AND, AS FAR AS IT KNOWS, REPORTS

UNFOUNDED. PIO NOTED THAT UNDER EXISTING TREATIES HMG CANNOT CEDE BASES TO THIRD COUNTRY.

2. DESPITE ABOVE, PRO-EOKA "ETHNIKI" INSISTED ITS STORY CORRECT: PROVIDED FLOOD OF DETAILS "CONFIRMING" ARRANGEMENTS TRANSFER DHEKELIA TO UNITED STATES. COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI" AND "NEI KERI" ALSO EDITORIALIZED AGAINST OPERATION. PAPER CLAIMED CYPRUS AIR SPACE "NOT RPT NOT UNKNOWN" TO U-2 AND PHANTOM PILOTS. SOMEWHAT OMINOUSLY, "HARAVGHI" TOOK NOTE OF INDICATIONS THAT "PRESENT EGYPTIAN GOVT" SUPPORTS U.S. ROLE IN CANAL CLEARING, ARGUED THIS DID NOT MEAN CYPRUS SHOULD. COMMUNIST "NEI KERI" DEPRECATED PIO STATEMENT, CLAIMING AMERICAN INTRODUCTION "(OFFENSIVE HELICOPTERS EQUIPPED WITH POWERFUL GUNS AND HEAVILY ARMED VEHICLES" POSE THREAT TO CYPRUS AND AREA PEACE. CALLED UPON GOVT TO REMOVE AMERICANS FROM ISLAND (AS WELL AS ABOLISH SBA'S).

3. PRO-UP "ALITHIA" CLAIMED STATIONING OF AMERICANS NOT RPT NOT POPULAR WITH CYPRIOT PUBLIC (VAST MAJORITY OF WHOM "HAVE NO RPT NO PRO-AMERICAN FEELINGS"). NEVERTHELESS, PAPER CLAIMED U.S. PRESENCE REMOVES THREAT OF TURKISH INVASION AND REPRESENTS BASIC CHANGE IN USG POLICY. INTER ALI, "ALITHIA" STATED THERE STRONG REASON BELIEVE THAT CIA EARLIER HAD ATTEMPTED REMOVE MAKARIOS.

4. ALL PAPERS REPORT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN BY "NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES" OVER NIMBUS STAR; MOST CARRY ALLEGED RUSSIAN EXPRESSION OF DISCONTENT WITH GOCYPRUS DECISION.

5. ONLY PRO-MAKARIOS "SYNAGERMOS" AND "PHILELEFTHEROS" DEFENDED GOVT ACTION. FORMER POINTED OUT THAT EGYPTIAN GOVT ITSELF ASKED CYPRUS TO PERMIT STATIONING OF AMERICANS; LATTER DENIED U.S. PRESENCE PERMANENT. BOTH DEPRECATED PRESS CRITICISM AS PART OF GENERAL ANTI-GOVT CAMPAIGN.

6. PIO, IN RESPONSE "ETHNIKI" PRODDING, STATED U.S. MARINES WILL NOT RPT NOT ENJOY "EXTRA TERRITORIAL RIGHTS" AND SAID ANY OFFENSES COMMITTED WILL BE DEALT WITH UNDER CYPRIOT LAW

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 00705 221623Z

7. COMMENT: PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF PERMANENT U.S. MARINE PRESENCE FEED ON TWO TYPES OF LOCAL SPECULATION: EITHER THAT WE NEED PRESENCE TO COUNTER EXPANDING SOVIET PRESENCE EAST MED, OR THAT MOVE REFLECTS U.S. REACTION TO RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN INTER-COMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO FOSTER UNDER-

STANDING GENUINE REASON FOR MARINES' PRESENCE, BUT STORY IS WELL AHEAD OF US. WE ANTICIPATE MORE FREE-SWINGING

ATTACKS IF IN FACT MOSCOW IS NO LONGER RESTRAINED BY DESIRE
TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO GOEGYPT.
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